

CLAIMS

I claim:

1. A snow removal tool comprising:

(a) an elongated shaft forming a handle, said shaft having an upper end, and a lower end extending downwardly adapted for resting in close proximity to the ground, said upper end having a handle grip means connected thereto, and said lower end comprising a ground contacting end means;

(b) a shovel blade having a lower edge, upper edge, side edges, and front and rear sides; and

(c) lever means pivotably connected between the shovel blade and said elongated shaft, said lever means extending beyond said shaft and including a foot-engaging member for operating said lever means arranged so that when a downward force is applied on the foot-engaging member while the elongated handle is supported in a generally upright mode resting upon the ground contacting means, the shovel blade is pivoted upwardly.

2. The snow removal tool of claim 1 additionally comprising:

(d) means for effecting removal of frozen precipitation material from the shovel blade while in an elevated position.

3. The snow removal tool of claim 1 additionally comprising a latch means for releasably securing the lever means in close relation to the shaft member.

4. The snow removal tool of claim 2 wherein the means for effecting removal of frozen precipitation material is a passive releasable lock means.

5. The snow removal tool of claim 2 wherein the means for effecting removal of frozen precipitation material comprises active push rod means.

6. The snow removal tool of claim 1 wherein said lever means is comprised of a primary lever arm secured to the rear of the shovel blade on one end and to the foot-engaging member on the other end, and also being pivotably secured to the elongated shaft member at a point between said ends.
7. The snow removal tool of claim 6 wherein said lever means additionally comprises an auxiliary lever arm secured to the rear of the shovel blade on one end and the foot-engaging member on the other end.
8. The snow removal tool of claim 6 additionally including an automatic locking and release means for holding the lever means together with the attached blade in a position to which it has been elevated by foot pressure on the end of the lever.
9. The snow removal device of claim 7 wherein said lever means is comprised of first and second cooperating pairs of lever arms.
10. The snow removal device of claim 7 wherein said primary and auxiliary lever arms are pivotably secured to the shovel blade at different operative positions.
11. The snow removal device of claim 7 wherein the primary and auxiliary lever arms are pivotably secured to the foot-engaging member.
12. The snow removal device of claim 11 wherein said means for removing material from the shovel blade is accomplished by rotating the foot-engaging member inwardly, which causes the shovel blade to be tilted forwardly.
13. The snow removal device of claim 3 additionally comprising a lock means for temporarily maintaining the shovel blade in a raised position.
14. The snow removal device of claim 1 additionally comprising a wheel means

attached to the lower end of the shaft in a position so that when the shaft is tilted rearwardly the wheel will contact and support the device on the ground surface.

15. The snow removal device of claim **1** wherein said elongated shaft is comprised of two substantially mirror image tubular members.

16. The snow removal device of claim **1** wherein the primary and auxiliary lever arms are connected to the rear side of the shovel blade by first and second joint members integrally molded with said blade and a connector means in the form of pins joining said first joint member to the primary lever arm and said second joint member to the auxiliary lever arm.

17. A method of shoveling, lifting, and dumping snow comprising the steps of:

- (a) pushing forwardly on a handle member of a snow device with a blade engaging the ground surface so that the blade is caused to slide along the ground surface so that a granular material such as snow is caused to accumulate on the blade;
- (b) resting the lower end of the handle member upon an underlying surface;
- (c) raising the shovel blade from the ground a suitable distance by pressing downwardly on a foot-engaging member with the operator's foot to lift the blade by means of a levered arm arrangement;
- (d) orienting the shovel apparatus to a suitable dumping area; and
- (e) moving the blade to a substantially vertical position on the levered arm arrangement to dump snow from it.

18. A method of shoveling, lifting and dumping snow in accordance with claim **17** wherein the blade is rotated to a substantially vertical position by releasing a locking means and allowing it to be rotated by gravity acting upon an off center rotatable connection to the leveraged arm arrangement.

19. A method of shoveling, lifting and dumping snow in accordance with claim **17**

where in the blade is actively rotated to a substantially vertical orientation by a push rod arrangement operated by the operator.

20. A method of shoveling, lifting and dumping snow in accordance with claim **19** wherein the push rod arrangement is activated by the operators foot.

21. A method of shoveling, lifting and dumping snow in accordance with claim **19** wherein the push rod arrangement is activated by the hand.